

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

The “Neighborhood Watch” program is organized to enable law enforcement and the community to work together to make specific geographical areas more resistant to crime. “Neighborhood Watch” is truly a community-based effort, designed to educate citizens in how to prevent crime from occurring in their neighborhood and community. Primarily these types of preventative measures involve learning how to protect yourself and your property, along with becoming more alert in watching for signs of problems in your area. “Neighborhood Watch” encourages a strong working relationship between the patrol officers and citizens that they serve.

“Neighborhood Watch”, “Crime Watch”, “Block Watch”, “Town Watch”, across the country the program goes by different names, but whatever the programs called in your area it’s one of the most effective and least costly methods to prevent crime today. The watch idea is adaptable, with various types of community watches being organized around different types of geographical units. There is “Dormitory Watch”, “Park Watch”, “Apartment Watch”, “School Watch”, “Utility Watch”; the list can go on forever. Law enforcement agencies across the country learned long ago that community participation in anti-crime programs is essential in making communities safe. One of the most effective ways to promote citizen interaction with law enforcement is the sharing of information. Citizen groups determine specific needs or problems and then share this information with their local law enforcement agency. Law Enforcement meet with public groups and organizations, making them aware of specific criminal activity that may be occurring in their area and sharing crime prevention tips.

“Block Watch” is truly driven by the members of the community and the local law enforcement agency is there to assist and support the “Block Watch” in every way possible. Again, the “Neighborhood Block Watch” is run by members of the community.

WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH?

The goals of “Neighbor Block Watch” are:

1. Increase community awareness, enhance individuals’ power of observation and encourage mutual assistance and concern among neighbors to reduce crime.
2. To allow the concerns of the neighborhood to be presented in a unified voice to the respective law enforcement agency, or to other governmental agencies.
3. Develop neighborhood action programs where neighbors can help each other by watching each other’s homes and reporting suspicious person(s) in their neighborhoods to their law enforcement agency.
4. To train citizens in various personal and physical security strategies, and to help them in making their homes more secure. Most crimes are opportunistic and can be reduced or removed by simple crime prevention techniques

The Waukesha County Sheriff's Department remains committed to meeting the needs of the community. The Waukesha County Sheriff's Department welcomes the opportunity to speak to neighborhood groups and community organizations on how to start and maintain a successful "Neighborhood Block Watch" program.

For more information contact Detective Steve Pederson at #262-896-8137.